Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Friday 09 Feb 2024 until 23:59 on Saturday 10 Feb 2024

Forecast Issued on Friday 09 Feb 2024 at 03:21

Confidence: High for worst of conditions early Friday and turning milder into the afternoon.

Headline for Friday 09 Feb 2024: Severe gale to storm force summit winds at first bringing drifting and severe wind chill. Overcast start with periods of snow, becoming lighter, more patchy from mid-morning, before turning to rain at all but highest peaks by mid-afternoon.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 09 Feb 2024

Blizzards Low Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** Low Likelihood	**Storm force winds** Low Likelihood
Gales Medium Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow	Light snow	Light snow	Dull	Drizzle	Light rain
Precipitation probability					
>95%	80%	60%	60%	40%	40%

Forecast for Friday 09 Feb 2024

Weather: Early morning overcast with periods of snow turning heavy at times, with drifting and severe wind chill. Remaining cloudy to overcast through the rest of the day, but outbreaks becoming lighter and more patchy, also turning to rain at lower levels by mid-morning, then all but highest peaks from around mid-afternoon.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Virtually nil becoming 10-20% from mid-day

Low cloud and visibility: Moderate or poor in rain, very poor in snow and within cloud with bases extensive from 500m at first before lifting and breaking a little for the afternoon.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Friday 09 Feb 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	43/52 E	39/48 E	27/36 E	23/29 E	18/22 E	17/21 SE	15/18 SE
600	39/52 E	32/43 E	24/34 E	19/27 E	13/18 E	15/20 SE	13/19 SE
300	17/38 E	16/35 E	13/30 E	10/23 E	6/17 E	6/16 E	5/14 SE
Valley	17/38 NE	18/37 NE	16/31 NE	13/24 NE	10/17 NE	7/16 E	4/11 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-2/-12	-1/-11	-0/-8	1/-6	2/-4	2/-4	1/-4
600	-1/-10	-0/-9	1/-6	2/-4	2/-3	3/-2	3/-2
300	1/-4	2/-4	3/-2	3/-0	4/1	4/2	4/2
Valley	4/-2	4/-1	5/1	6/2	6/3	6/4	6/4
Freezing Level*	400m	500m	700m	1000m	1600m	1500m	1300m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Hazardous conditions early in heavy snow, storm force winds with extensive drifting.

Forecast for Saturday 10 Feb 2024

Weather: Cloudy start with some patchy light rain, drizzle and across highest peaks snow, then turning dry and bright around mid-morning and staying settled through the rest of the day.

Maximum wind: Variable 15mph or less

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10-20% becoming 80% plus from mid-morning

Low cloud and visibility: Good becoming moderate or poor in rain, very poor within cloud with bases quite extensive from 600m at first before lifting and breaking from mid-morning.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Zero Celsius increasing 10 Celsius during the afternoon
At 800m: Plus 1 Celsius lowering minus 1 Celsius by evening
Freezing level: 900m lowering 700m by evening

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 8 February 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:00 Full report: For the second day running, this report comes with a health warning in that, at the time of writing, the Lake District remains under a Met Office Yellow warning for snow until 6am on Friday. It was snowing while the assessor was on the hill and when he left it. This precipitation was falling as rain/sleet below c250m although this height could change, so walkers out on Friday should expect, and be prepared for, far more snow than experienced and described today as well as the possibility of snow down to valley level. Today was a day of precipitation which was falling as rain/sleet below 250m and snow above this height. Early in the day and at altitude, the snow consisted of fine grains whereas on the descent around midday there were larger snowflakes. The snow was being distributed on a strong predominantly easterly wind. Owing to this and the fine nature of the snow, there was little accumulation at altitude with hardly anything on windblown aspects, such as large parts of the summit plateau, to occasional 10cm drifts in hollows and west facing aspects. Where subject to the larger snowflakes, there was a general coverage of around 5cm. The vast majority of the fresh snow is falling on what was bare ground. Above 900m, however, on steep north and especially east facing aspects it will be settling on old, hard icy snow. Despite a summit temperature of minus 4 degrees C, little ice was encountered. The exceptions to this were above 500m on drainage lines and wherever puddles had frozen. These were especially treacherous when covered by fresh snow. Full winter clothing (waterproofs – which double as windproofs - , extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment, including a torch, are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. Walking poles were very helpful today to aid stability. Anyone attempting steep and exposed routes above the snowline, such as the Helvellyn Edges, on Friday should expect to find them in full winter condition and be suitably equipped with an ice axe and crampons together with the associated winter mountaineering experience. Conditions at altitude were challenging today with visibility reducing to 20m at times in the clouds of snow and spindrift. With deeper snow on Friday obscuring paths and landmarks, there is the possibility for complete whiteout conditions so excellent navigational skills will be essential. Microspikes are recommended for anyone heading above the snowline and goggles lessen the sting of windblown spindrift. Temperature: minus 3.8 C, Maximum wind speed 30.5 mph, Wind chill: minus 14.6 C, Average wind speed: 21.1 mph
Issued at: 03:21 on Fri 09 Feb 2024

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